

Amendment  
Serial No. 10/726,526  
Attorney Docket No. 032153

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, claims 4-5 have been amended to depend on claim 1 instead of claim 2.

It is submitted that the amendments do not raise any new issues. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 10 are the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by JP 09-090344A to Sekisui Chem. Co. ("Sekisui"); and claims 7-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sekisui, in view of an Official Notice.

Also, in the Office Action, claims 6-9 and 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 4,292,370 to Pekko ("Pekko"), claims 1, 3, 6-9, and 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Pekko in view of US 2003/0230379A1 to Roubik ("Roubik"); and claims 7, 9, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Pekko in view of the Official Notice, or, in the alternative, over Pekko in view of Roubik, and further in view of the Official Notice.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended by incorporating therein the features of claim 2 which is not included in these rejections. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

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In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Nicolas E. Seckel  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 44,373

**Atty. Docket No. 032153**  
**Customer No.: 38834**  
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 822-1100  
Fax: (202) 822-1111  
NES:rep